

**Department of Health & Human Services
Administration for Children and Families**

Program Office:	Office of Refugee Resettlement
Funding Opportunity Title:	Technical Assistance to ORR Funded Refugee Programs and Services to Asylees
Announcement Type:	Notice of Amendment - 2
Funding Opportunity Number:	HHS-2006-ACF-ORR-RB-0112
CFDA Number:	93.576

This is a Notice of Amendment to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Program Announcement entitled, "Technical Assistance to ORR Funded Refugee Programs and Services to Asylees," **HHS-2006-ACF-ORR-RB-0112, CFDA # 93.576**, published in the to the ACF Grant Opportunities webpage on April 6, 2006 (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/index.html>). The application procedures are hereby modified by this Notice of Amendment.

SUMMARY: The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) invites eligible entities to submit competitive applications for cooperative agreements to provide technical assistance to agencies that serve refugees. The original Program Announcement, published on April 6, 2006, had invited applications in seven priority areas.

This Notice invites applications under one additional priority area that will have a separate deadline. All other parts of the Program Announcement remain in effect.

PLEASE INSERT the following in the first section of Program Announcement:

Application Due Date for Priority 8: **06/29/2006**

PLEASE REPLACE the Executive Summary section with the following:

Executive Summary:

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) invites eligible entities to submit competitive applications for cooperative agreements to provide technical assistance to agencies that serve refugees in Priority Areas 1 through 6 and 8. For Priority Area 7, ORR invites eligible applicants to submit applications for a grant to provide services via a Multilingual Information and Referral Hotline.

PRIORITY AREA 1 - Technical Assistance for refugee-based Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs), Voluntary Agencies, faith-based and other non-profit organizations assisting or working with refugee communities, and/or organizations and other priorities that the Director of ORR may consider as an appropriate response to emerging refugee resettlement needs;

PRIORITY AREA 2 - Technical Assistance for Employment Services;

PRIORITY AREA 3 - Technical Assistance for English Language Training and Service Programs;

PRIORITY AREA 4 - Technical Assistance for Refugee Economic Development Activities/Programs;

PRIORITY AREA 5 - Technical Assistance to Promote Citizenship and Civic Participation;

PRIORITY AREA 6 - Technical Assistance for Special Initiatives for Community Resettlement; and

PRIORITY AREA 7 - Services for Asylees to be provided via a Multilingual Information and Referral Hotline.

PRIORITY AREA 8 - Technical Assistance for Family Support and Child Welfare Services for Refugee Families and Communities

PLEASE DELETE the following first sentence of the third paragraph under *Section I. Funding Opportunity Description*:

ORR expects to make available to eight priority areas approximately \$1,601,400 in social services discretionary funds in the form of seven to nine cooperative agreements and one grant.

PLEASE REPLACE the deleted information with the following:

ORR expects to make available to eight priority areas approximately \$2,301,400 in social services discretionary funds in the form of six cooperative agreements and one grant.

PLEASE INSERT the following after *Priority Area 7: Services for Asylees to be Provided via a Multilingual Information and Referral Hotline*, after *Section II. Award Information*:

Priority Area 8:

Technical Assistance for Family Support and Child Welfare Services for Refugee Families and Communities

Please Note: This Priority Area has an application due date of 06/29/2006 that is separate from the other seven priority areas. As with the other seven priority areas, an applicant may submit applications for more than one priority area. Separate applications must be submitted for each priority area under which an applicant wishes to be considered. Applicants may also submit more than one application under each priority area.

Description

Purpose and Scope

The state of well-being of refugee families is an important contributing factor to family self-sufficiency, resettlement, and integration into American society. ORR proposes to award one cooperative agreement for a technical assistance project to help public and private agencies promote collaboration among refugee communities, the network of refugee resettlement services, and children and youth services including child protective services, to promote the well-being of children in refugee families, and to support family strengthening and youth crime prevention.

Refugee families residing in U.S. communities may encounter significant differences in child rearing practices compared to the ethnic or national customs of their country of origin. The reasons may include: 1) traditional cultures with strict parental roles may conflict with roles within the American family, resulting, for example, in differences in refugee youth's desire for early independence; 2) refugee families may experience trauma as a result of the persecution or flight, the effects of which may be destabilizing to family life; 3) refugee families may need income from both parents, unlike the practice in their home country, to adequately provide for their needs; 4) single refugee parent families face stresses similar to those that U.S. single parent families face in addition to the trauma from their refugee experiences; and 5) refugees may end up living in neighborhoods with high crime rates and/or without access to an

ethnic community that would provide information, guidance, and support.

Due to these factors and others, refugee families may encounter child protective services and other agencies of the judicial system. These experiences may not be easily understood by the refugee communities. As a result, refugee communities may become distrusting of the U.S. child welfare, child protective, and judicial systems. This distrust may result in difficulties for refugee families in their effort to establish homes that promote the well-being of the family members and where parents are secure in their role of providing a nurturing environment for their children. These issues may also force children to face conflicts in meeting the expectations of their parents, fitting in with their peers, and developing a sense of belonging in their schools and social groups. These conflicts can lead to discipline problems in school, at home and with local law enforcement agencies.

ORR envisions technical assistance to address risk factors associated with refugee families that may include family violence, social isolation, drugs, alcohol, traditional child-rearing practices, spouse roles and relationships of refugee families that may conflict with the laws and practices of the U.S. This technical assistance also aims at reducing crime and victimization among refugees, positively contributing to their safety and self-sufficiency, and supporting the development of refugee youth training, leadership skills, and conflict management.

This technical assistance cooperative agreement is intended to promote collaboration among refugee families, refugee service providers, and children and youth service agencies that promote the welfare of refugee families, refugee youth, and children. This cooperative agreement is also intended to promote culturally and linguistically appropriate services and/or access to mainstream services for refugee families.

Through this cooperative agreement, the grantee will submit a technical assistance plan for child welfare services for refugee families and communities that include the following: 1) site visits; 2) written materials proposed for dissemination to the field; and 3) technical support intended to strengthen the content and delivery of the technical assistance being provided. ORR intends to review and approve the technical assistance plan for family strengthening and child welfare services for refugee families and communities in these areas and other activities proposed by the grantee related to the allowable activities listed below. ORR will also provide direction and

feedback in implementation of the critical elements of the technical assistance activities approved under this plan.

Allowable Activities

Applicants may propose all or some combination of the following, as well as other innovative strategies justifying their usefulness for technical assistance for the designated area:

- Provision of technical assistance to refugee communities, refugee service providers, school systems, school counselors, refugee youth clubs, and child welfare and youth services agencies in writing, through telephone consultation, and site visits to ORR grantees;
- Facilitation of an electronic exchange of refugee child welfare information through a network website and listserv;
- Promoting refugee family strengthening activities;
- Identification and dissemination of best practices in child welfare in schools, communities, and among families;
- Locating, developing, and disseminating training curricula and materials;
- Conducting on-site reviews of refugee child welfare services; and
- Providing technical assistance regarding guardianship to Unaccompanied Refugee Minor programs and service providers assisting children eligible for ORR services.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative Agreement

Substantial Involvement with Cooperative Agreement:

Grantees will submit an annual technical assistance plan to ORR for review and approval of all activities to be conducted under this cooperative agreement.

Anticipated Total Priority Area \$300,000

Funding:**Anticipated Number of Awards:** 1**Ceiling on Amount of Individual Awards:** \$300,000 per budget period**Floor on Amount of Individual Awards:** None**Average Projected Award Amount:** \$300,000 per budget period**Length of Project Periods:** 36-month project with three 12-month budget periods

This announcement invites applications for project periods of up to three years. Although project periods may be for three years, ORR will make the initial awards on a competitive basis for a one-year budget period. In subsequent years, ORR will entertain applications for a continuation of grants under these awards beyond the one-year budget period, but within the three-year project period, on a noncompetitive basis. Any continuation is subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the grantee, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the Federal Government.

Awards under this announcement are subject to the availability of funds.

All information in this Notice of amendment is accurate and is in addition to information specified in the April 6, 2006 Program Announcement.

All other sections of the Program Announcement remain in effect as originally published.

ANNOUNCEMENT AVAILABILITY: The full text of this Program Announcement may be found at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2006-ACF-ORR-RB-0112.html> or on the ACF Grant Opportunities webpage at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/index.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Gauer,
202.401.1312

Date: 05/17/2006

Martha E. Newton
Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement